



NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

Volume 3, Issue 6

June 2010



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NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

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North Dakota Governor
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Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.

On the Cover



Sharing the Moment: Col. Cecil "Bud" Hensel Jr. is sworn in to the rank of brigadier general by Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, as his sons, U.S. Air Force Capt. Jonathon Hensel, left, and Staff Sgt. Bryan Hensel, of the 119th Maintenance Squadron, stand at his side on a ceremonial stage at the N.D. Air National Guard, Fargo, N.D. Read Hensel's "View From the Top" on page 3. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing)

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VIEW FROM THE TOP

Comments from North Dakota National Guard Leadership

Thriving through Changes and Opportunities

For the past 17 years I've been reading this column, first in the Jet Letter and now in the *Guardian*. I have now been asked to share my perspective with you as the new air component commander for the N.D. Air National Guard.

One constant throughout my 17 years in the N.D. National Guard is change. Change comes to every vibrant organization in a plethora of ways; through new commanders, personnel, equipment or missions. It is a reality that presents itself to us just about every day. Many of our successes are directly linked to how we manage the change in our life, day to day and year to year. But change also comes with opportunities; opportunities that can challenge us mentally, physically and even emotionally.

As a commander, one of my responsibilities is to help prepare all of our Airmen and Soldiers to be ready to accept those opportunities that change will present; to ensure that you have all of the tools available in order to gain the knowledge and experience required to succeed when you accept those opportunities. Another of my responsibilities is to ensure available opportunities for every Airman and Soldier that has put forward that effort to prepare, gain the experience, and demonstrate they

are ready for a challenge. These opportunities may reside in our units, or they may be at the state, active duty components or even at the national level.

We all know that with the continued commitment to the Global War on Terrorism and the pressures on the active-duty forces, the National Guard no longer serves as operational reserve but is an active war fighting partner. This change from a strategic reserve has not only required more participation at the tactical and strategic levels but also at the command and staff levels. This translates to more leadership and technical opportunities as members of the National Guard who are accepting challenging missions and positions never before available to reserve components. Many of our N.D. National Guard Airmen and Soldiers have prepared for and accepted opportunities outside of our organization. Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, Director of Logistics (J-4), National Guard Bureau (NGB); Maj. Gen. Dennis Jacobson, Deputy Chief of Staff for Re-stationing, U.S. Forces Korea; Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Terry L. Scherling, Special Assistant to the Chief, NGB; Chief Master Sgt. Dwight Olson, manpower analyst, NGB A1M; Chief Master Sgt. James Clemenson, Enlisted Manager



Brig. Gen. Cecil "Bud" Hensel Jr.
Air Component Commander
North Dakota National Guard

of the NGB Joint Staff; Sgt. 1st Class Mark Wanner, Silver Star recipient while deployed with the Ohio Army National Guard; and Staff Sgt. Justin Lampert, instructor, National Guard Warrior Training Center, Fort Benning, Ga.

Whether working at the NGB (either Air or Army), or with the U.S. Air Force or Army, these are just a small representation of those N.D. National Guard members who have excelled and proudly represented us beyond our state's borders.

I will work hard to continue to provide the training and experience to prepare every Airman and Soldier while also seeking new opportunities. However, it is up to each of us to not only prepare ourselves professionally, but also to recognize and seize these opportunities to serve and excel. By being prepared and planning ahead, you can ensure not only your success but the success of the N.D. National Guard, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army.

It would be a pleasure for me to see a North Dakota National Guardsman serve as the commander, command chief or command sergeant major of the National Guard Bureau.

Sincerely,

Brig. Gen. Cecil "Bud" Hensel Jr.

Newly promoted Brig. Gen. Cecil "Bud" Hensel Jr., left, accepts a symbolic command flag from Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, symbolizing his new role as N.D. Air National Guard air component commander during a change of command ceremony May 1, at the N.D. Air National Guard, Fargo, N.D.



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Date: April 27, 2010
 To: North Dakota Guardian
 From: Company C, 2/285th Aviation Battalion - Sgt. 1st Class Derek Heck
 Subject: Mustache Mania!

North Dakota Gov. John Hoeven isn't the only one sporting a mustache these days. The mustache tradition dates back to World War I, where it is said that as a Soldier advanced in the ranks, they would grow a thicker and bushier mustache. When the 54 Guardsmen of Company C, 2/285th Aviation Battalion departed North Dakota, six percent of the male Soldiers sported hairy lips and paid homage to this tradition. Once we arrived in Fort Sill, Okla., our mobilization station, that number almost tripled to 16 percent. At this juncture, the number of new mustache participants had stalled.

Once our training was complete, we were sent to Kuwait and then to Iraq, where we replaced two Black Hawk helicopter companies. Their respective call signs were "Godfather" and "Nightmare." Wanting to create our own identity, we formed a call sign nomination committee and put them to work.

The nominees were Chicken Hawk, Hob Knob and Mustache. In the end, Mustache edged out the other competitors by a lip hair.

"Most call signs deal with blood, gore or something intimidating; ours portrays the humorous demeanor of Charlie Company and its members," said Chief Warrant Officer Zachary Putz, of Bismarck.

On Jan. 9, Chief Warrant Officer Jay Knopp, company tactical air combat operations staff officer, of Mandan, N.D., submitted the request for the call sign "Mustache." On Jan. 11, the Army approved the request and the legend was born. It is worth noting that the article "Is mustache a misstep for Gov. Hoeven" was published in the Bismarck Tribune on Jan. 17.

"I had no desire to ever own a mustache, however, as the commander of the 'Mustaches,' I felt obligated to support the cause. I stopped shaving my upper lip and don't plan to shave it until the end of the deployment," said Capt. Douglas Larsen, former Towner-Granville-Upham running back, now Mustache commander.

The 2/285th female Soldiers have also displayed drawn mustaches on their index fingers to show their unit pride.



Family Readiness Group Sends Photo Albums to Aviation Soldiers

By Sgt. Ann Knudson, Joint Force Headquarters

Members of the Family Readiness Group (FRG) of Company C, 2/285th Aviation Battalion have been regularly sending their loved ones well-wishes and support in the form of letters and packages since the unit left North Dakota for a yearlong mission to Iraq in October 2009.

The FRG came together last month to make miniature family photo albums for their deployed Soldiers at the Army Aviation Support Facility, Bismarck.

The albums each contained a dozen photos, plus one more for the cover, and were small enough to fit in a pocket.

"It's just a nice little token of home for everybody to get," said Kristie Knopp, of Mandan, wife of Chief Warrant Officer Jay Knopp; a pilot with the 2/285th.

Company C is an assault helicopter company with about half of its members from North Dakota and half from Utah, plus a few from Arizona. About 90 percent of Company C is in Basrah, Iraq, but North Dakota members in Companies D, E and Headquarters and Headquarters Company are also at Tillil and Al Kut.

They serve as a quick reaction force 24 hours a day and seven days a week, performing air assault missions with U.S. and Iraq forces and medical evacuations. They also transport personnel and equipment and provide support for other helicopters, both AH-64 Apaches and UH-60 Black Hawks.

"We replaced two UH-60 companies. This keeps us pretty busy," said Capt. Doug Larsen, company commander. "The Soldiers are gaining a lot of experience planning, flying and maintaining. Since we've been in country, the company has averaged over 500 flight hours per month. The average crew member has over 150 combat hours."

Larsen said Basrah has more amenities than one might expect. There is a brand new gym and United Service Organization (USO) building. Communication with family and friends is good with free phones and a computer lab at the USO, plus phones and a computer lab at the flight line. Support from home has been great, with mail arriving steadily.



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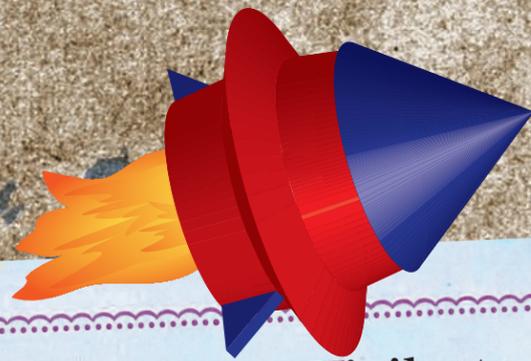
Mustachioed Soldiers of the 2/285th



Left, Sgt. Andy Iverson leans on his mustachioed aircraft, Sherlock. Right, Tyler, Lexee and Kristie Knopp work on an album for their father and husband, Chief Warrant Officer Jay Knopp.



Dispatches
 From the
 Front



Rocket City

ADA Soldiers Stay Vigilant at FOB Salerno

By Spc. Jackie Raatz
188th Air Defense Artillery RAID IV

There's a reason they call Salerno "Rocket City." The forward operating base (FOB) close to the Eastern edge of Afghanistan has been getting a rocket sent its way every few weeks since the N.D. National Guard's 188th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment (RAID) IV and Sentinel teams arrived here in January. Usually these airborne attacks — likely due to Taliban insurgents — are poorly aimed.

But the ADA isn't taking any chances.

Using state-of-the-art surveillance equipment, two teams from North Dakota are keeping watch over the mountains just beyond the FOB perimeter, as well as on the airspace above. One team is continuing the ongoing RAID mission, started in 2005, of using high-powered cameras to monitor the landscape for potential threats to base personnel. The Sentinel team is the first mission of its kind for North Dakota. They are operating radar that keeps tabs on aircraft dozens of miles away.

For the Salerno Sentinel team, all of whom received new 14J military occupation specialty training in the new early-warning system last year, every day often brings new knowledge as they study the radar's capabilities, looking to manuals and classes for help in keeping the equipment working reliably in the heat and dust. Every team member brings skills from another military job to the table, such as communications and the Avenger weapon system.

Spc. Francisco Raatz has worked on other radars in Italy while he was active Air Force a few years ago — the types used for Doppler weather and air traffic control, to name a couple. He assists the civilian field service representative that flies in to replace parts and run diagnostic tests.

Like the other North Dakota teams deployed elsewhere, the Sentinel team at Salerno occasionally has on-the-job training to bring them up to speed on the software used by the radars. They take advantage of online classes offered on the Army Knowledge Online

Web site and by distance learning colleges.

The RAID team has been tasked with providing perimeter security, scanning the landscape for the sources of rockets and mortars. A laser provides grid coordinates for confirmed enemies, which allows reaction forces to eliminate the threat. They also provide visual support for missions outside of the FOB.

Three of the Sentinel operators were promoted in April; Sgt. Matthew Gibbins, Spc. Allie Huber and Spc. Jackie Raatz were pinned at a ceremony. 1st Sgt. Gregory Brockberg flew into Salerno for the event. He thanked them, and also the whole Salerno crew present, for working hard to support their teammates.

When they're not manning the radar or cameras, the Soldiers have lots to do at Salerno. There's a 24-hour morale, welfare and recreation center — a place where they can play pool or video games and rent movies. A movie theater there plays current releases. An education center offers face-to-face classes and online access to college courses from University of Maryland-Europe and Central Texas College, as well as Dari and Pashtu classes taught by local Afghans. The favorite pastime for everyone, however, is physical training — and they get plenty of it at the gym or out running on the roads.

Some Soldiers have even take up gardening. The ubiquitous, dry gravel makes it almost impossible, but Sgt. 1st Class Jay Petersen, RAID IV/Sentinel noncommissioned officer-in-charge at Salerno, is proud of his "lawn" — a

Sgt. 1st Class Jay Petersen congratulates newly promoted Sgt. Matthew Gibbins at Forward Operating Base Salerno. Below, Spc. Andrew Kuhn, left, and Sgt. 1st Class Jay Peterson admire Peterson's lawn work outside his barracks on FOB Salerno



Courtesy Photos

Happy Hooligans Succeed in Ghana Mission

Members of the 119th Wing Civil Engineer Squadron deployed to Ghana for a humanitarian mission this spring. The advanced team, which consisted of Chief Master Sgt. Scott Terry, Master Sgt. Chuck Wickenhiser and myself arrived in Accra, Ghana, on March 30 and departed for Takoradi the next day to coordinate material purchasing and the demolition of an existing roof on one of the buildings we were scheduled to renovate.

The mission was a joint effort with the 127th Wing from Selfridge, Mich., and the local Ghanaians. Thirty-two Airmen from the 127th arrived on April 8. Eleven days later, 34 Happy Hooligans arrived on April 19.

It was a successful mission where we learned a great deal. We completed many tasks, to include improving the roof structure, installing new electrical services, rewiring facilities, masonry and carpenter work, constructing rafter trusses, infilling windows and repairing walls.

By the time the last of the Airmen left on May 1, the roof structure was ready to receive the metal roof, which was planned to be contractor installed from the beginning. Mission accomplished! The members of the advanced team finally left for home.

— Maj. John Gibbs, 119th Wing Civil Engineer Squadron



Below, This building on Burma Camp in Accra, Ghana, needed to be gutted and renovated for use as classrooms to train the Ghanaian Armed Forces. Airmen with the N.D. National Guard's 119th Wing Civil Engineer Squadron installed a roof, electrical wiring, windows and doors, ceiling fans, air conditioning units, floors and more while there.

... Continued from opposite page.

swatch of green grass, a tiny palm tree and two colorful cactus plants blooming in front of his barracks. He says the other RAID Soldiers in his barracks help with the watering, and that he's looking forward to kicking back in a lawn chair with his feet in the soft grass this summer.

Spc. Andrew Kuhn, on the RAID team, has invented a new sport that he plays in his barracks, which he calls "ninja golf." After covering his head with a neck gaiter and donning knee and elbow pads, he takes a putter and hunches over an empty water bottle.

"There aren't any rules," Kuhn explains. "All you do, basically, is put on as much gear as you can to make yourself look ridiculous, and hit whatever you can find."

He carefully takes aim and launches the bottle across the open bay. Petersen grabs a club and joins in, driving a pop can out the front door. Along with the Xbox, it's the best way to unwind after shift.



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Local dignitaries, including Fargo Mayor Dennis Walaker, in sunglasses, and former N.D. Adjutant General and member of the Fargo Airport Authority Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Alexander P. Macdonald, left of Walaker, dig into the ground with gold colored shovels, April 21, on the site of the new N.D. Air National Guard fire station, Fargo, N.D. The new station will be located north of the existing fire station making it closer to the airfield, resulting in shorter response times for aircraft emergencies. The N.D. Air National Guard Fire Department has the responsibility to respond to all military and civilian aircraft emergencies at Hector International Airport.

Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp



Tech Sgt. Brady A. Schneider

From left to right, Chief Master Sgt. Paula Johnson, N.D. state command chief; Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Job; Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general and Brig. Gen. William Seekins, land component commander, sign the Guard Family Covenant at the N.D. Air National Guard, May 1. The document reaffirms N.D. National Guard senior leadership's commitment to military families.

Members of the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company launch a bridge bay while working to assemble a six-part raft used to move equipment across water during an exercise at Kimball Bottoms on the Missouri River, south of Bismarck May 1. From start to finish, the process of assembling the raft takes approximately 20 minutes.



Sgt. Ann Knudson



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Capt. Amber Monette presents signed photos to U.S. Congressman Earl Pomeroy, right, and North Dakota Gov. John Hoeven at the May 16 Freedom Salute ceremony for the unit Monette commanded: the N.D. Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment's RAID (Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment) III. The photos feature the unit's Soldiers along with the state flag North Dakota's elected leadership presented to the unit before they mobilized to Afghanistan.



Sgt. Ann Knudson

GUARDIAN Snapshots

A group of top ranking officials from the Ghanaian Armed Forces (GAF) in Ghana, Africa, had the opportunity to explore North Dakota April 14-20, to continue building a bilateral relationship with the state through the Department of Defense's State Partnership Program (SPP).

Since 2004, the N.D. National Guard has developed a professional association with Ghana. The SPP aligns states with partner countries to encourage the development of economic, political and military ties.

"This was a tremendous opportunity to exchange ideas and build upon our strong partnership with the Ghanaian officials," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general.

Sprynczynatyk has traveled to Ghana along with other N.D. National Guard leadership a number of times as part of the SPP, where he has learned about the GAF's training and military programs.

Among the seven Ghanaian officials taking part in the exchange to North Dakota was the commanding general of the GAF, Lt. Gen. Peter Blay, chief of defense staff. Blay also brought his wife, Edna, and daughter, Dilys, to lend their perspective on family programs.

The guests were escorted around the state to see the various facilities and components of the N.D. National Guard, as well as to discuss future opportunities for the partnership. The group made stops in Fargo, Grand Forks and Devils Lake and interacted with Guardsmen as they conducted training.



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp
Col. Rick Gibney points out features of an MQ-1 ground control station simulator to Lt. Gen. Peter Blay, the chief of Defense Staff, Ghana Armed Forces, at the N.D. Air National Guard, Fargo, N.D., April 16. The N.D. Air National Guard flies the MQ-1 Predator remotely piloted aircraft from Fargo, and uses the simulator to train pilots and sensor operators at the unit.

Ghanaian Family Provides Unique Perspective

When General Blay learned about the visit, he wanted to share the experience with his wife and daughter. His decision to have his family on the journey proved to be a great learning experience. During their stay, Edna and Dilys received the opportunity to experience the American way of life. Although they were the ones traveling to a new land, it proved to be equally gratifying for their North Dakota Guardsmen counterparts.

The first stop on Dilys and Edna's tour was the Capitol building of North Dakota. There, they saw how the local government system works and how old-time architecture in North Dakota compares to newer construction. They also had a chance to peruse the Heritage Center where they were able to learn about the various birds and animals that roam the North Dakota landscape. North Dakota's fauna contrasts significantly to the wildlife they frequently see in Ghana.

Ghana is roughly the same size as North Dakota, but its population is in the millions. While driving from place to place in Bismarck, the Blays were surprised by how light the traffic was.

"I'm not used to the cold weather, but I appreciate the quiet, so I like it here," Edna said.

She explained that in Ghana they have one rainy season a year, which is their cold season. They do not have seasons like fall and winter.



Sgt. 1st Class Troy Skelton (center) looks on.
Spc. Lindsay Suko (left), with the 191st Military Police Company, shows Ghana Lt. Gen. Peter Blay the gun turret on an Armored Security Vehicle at the Raymond J. Bohn Armory in Bismarck as Sgt. 1st Class Troy Skelton (center) looks on.



Left, Spc. Tonya Sigl talks to Dilys Blay during a visit to Bismarck State College April 16. Blay was able to gain perspective on American culture during her visit from Ghana.

Pfc. Jess Raasch

When she heard North Dakota can receive snow six months out of the year, she was astonished.

During their visit, Edna and Dilys ate at some of the locally-owned restaurants in Bismarck.

"The atmosphere of our restaurants is about the same. We still have fries and chicken. It's just the taste that is a little different," explained Dilys.

Dilys said they also have what they call "grass cutters" in some restaurants in Ghana. Grass cutters are large rats, about the size of a football, and are a delicacy in her country.

In contrast to most Families in North Dakota, Dilys said that in Ghana, most children around 15 years old are sent to boarding schools. Teens in Ghana, just like in the U.S., enjoy music and video games. Dilys said most teens in Ghana listen to hip-hop and play video games such as Playstation 3 and Wii.

"We are just like you. We wear the same clothes, listen to the same music. We are the same," Dilys said.

Dilys was also able to go shopping at local stores, eat local food and even go bowling. Bismarck State College teachers allowed her to sit in on a literature and biology class so she could witness first-hand how colleges in America operate.

"I really like science and math, so the biology class was fun," Dilys said. "It's nice to see how local colleges work."

Most importantly, Dilys was able to get a sense of North Dakota's culture while teaching her North Dakota counterparts about her native country. It was a journey she said she won't forget. ■

THE GHANA Experience

Story by
Pfc. Jess Raasch
Joint Force Headquarters

Reaching FOR THE Stars

By Capt. Penny Ripperger
119th Wing

HOOLIGANS TAKE PART IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Yellow school buses full of excited students were a common sight for the Happy Hooligans as tours became an everyday occurrence at the base. For two busy weeks in May, the 119th Wing Public Affairs Office conducted tours to more than 400 students from North Dakota, Minnesota and South Dakota.

Children on the tours varied in ages and backgrounds. The majority of them came from a program called Starbase — a Department of Defense educational program sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

The Starbase program allows 5th and 6th grade students to participate in hands-on activities focusing on aviation, science, technology, engineering, math and space exploration throughout a five-day course.

“We have two objectives. We want these students to learn various sciences, technology and math principles and, more importantly, we want the students to leave here motivated,” said Matt Balas, director of Starbase North Dakota.

There is a Starbase located in almost every state. Starbase South Dakota has a facility in Sioux Falls and Rapid City and there is one Starbase in Minot, N.D. This year alone, Starbase South Dakota served about 600 kids and Starbase North Dakota served about 800 kids.

“Starbase is a great program for these students because the things that they do are all hands-on activities. They’re excited about it and so are we as instructors. The

students are having such a great time that they don’t realize how much they’re learning,” said Dan Diez, program instructor of Starbase South Dakota.

Part of the Starbase curriculum is to spend one of the five days touring a military installation. This year, Starbase South Dakota asked the Happy Hooligans to be a part of their program bringing the 119th Wing face-to-face with hundreds of students and showing them firsthand what it’s like to be a member of the N.D. Air National Guard.

“One of the integral parts of the program is to meet individuals involved in careers centered on science and technology and that’s where the tours come in. The students are not only able to meet some great Airmen, but they’re also able to see the principles of what they have just learned

Staff Sgt. Kyle Ransom helps Starbase student Fiona White Eagle as she sprays cones with a fire hose at the 119th Wing Fire Hall.



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Above, Staff Sgt. Brandon Miller explains how survival equipment might be used by aircraft accident survivors during a tour of the life support facilities at the N.D. Air National Guard May 12. Right, Capt. Ryan Ayers, a C-21 pilot in the 119th Operations Support Squadron, talks about parts of the C-21 aircraft and how the airplane works in flight to Starbase kids touring the N.D. Air National Guard May 6.



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

in action,” Balas said.

The Happy Hooligans gave the students a red carpet tour. After watching a video about the history and missions of the 119th Wing, the first stop consisted of flying a simulated MQ-1 Predator on the Predator Mission Aircrew Training System. Life Support was the next stop. Here, the students got a chance to see a demonstration of the equipment used by air crews. Next on the agenda, the students stopped at the Hangar to see a C-21 Lear jet and talk to pilots and aircraft maintainers. The student’s final stop was at the Fire Hall, where eager visitors had the opportunity to try on equipment, climb in the fire trucks, aim and spray a water hose and watch the trucks spray water.

“The students absolutely love Starbase. At first they don’t know what to expect and by the end of the five days they are interested in science and technology; all the areas that we want to spark their interests and motivate the future of our country,” said Lisa Mureha, deputy director of Starbase North Dakota.

Organizers of Starbase are noticing a dramatic difference not only in the student’s interest level, but also in their behavior and test scores after taking the course.

“The uniqueness of this program is that students take a pre-test and post-test. So far this year, the students have improved 35 percent from their pre-test. They get homework when they’re here. It’s not just a field trip, it’s an educational experience,” Balas said.

According to Balas, Starbase has a vision to reach more than 100,000 students in a school year; currently they’re reaching nearly 60,000.

“We’re working on trying to find more sites in North Dakota and we are excited that the N.D. National Guard is working with us,” he said.

Ideas are currently being discussed about the possibility of bringing a Starbase to Fargo, something that the Happy Hooligans are interested in supporting.

“Tours are a very important part of our job because they give young people a chance to see what is available to them in the N.D. National Guard. If we can spark their interest in something, show them they can do anything they put their mind to, then who knows what they might accomplish. We may have had a few future Hooligans in these Starbase tours,” said Senior Master Sgt. David Lipp, 119th Wing Public Affairs.

For more information about Department of Defense Starbase, visit www.starbasedod.com.

First Group of Soldiers Home From Kosovo

The first round of N.D. Army National Guard Soldiers to return from Kosovo arrived back in the state May 14, after traveling home from their demobilization site at Camp Atterbury, Ind. The Soldiers came back on several flights throughout the day, with the largest group arriving in Fargo via a charter flight. Other flights arrived in Bismarck, Jamestown and Minot.

Gov. John Hoeven and Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general, greeted the Soldiers in Fargo. In addition to family and friends, other service members, Patriot Guard members and color guards from veterans' organizations welcomed the Soldiers home at locations across the state.

In all, about 150 Soldiers out of 650 from North Dakota are now home, with the remaining 500 expected to return later this summer.

Military Police Soldiers Assist in Haiti Mission

Twenty-one Soldiers with the N.D. Army National Guard's 191st Military Police Company arrived in Haiti May 19 to spend three weeks there providing security

to facilitate the movement of medical personnel as well as U.S. service members who are constructing a base camp about 95 miles north of Port au Prince, near Gonaives.

Sgt. 1st Class Troy L. Skelton, of Bismarck, is leading the North Dakota group of Soldiers, who all volunteered for the humanitarian mission. They are serving alongside Guardsmen from Louisiana, Missouri, Nevada, Montana, South Dakota, Texas, Indiana, New York and the Virgin Islands as part of the U.S. Southern Command New Horizons mission. In all, about 500 will take part in helping the communities that were seriously impacted by a Jan. 12 earthquake.

The New Horizons mission focus is on construction projects and humanitarian and medical assistance. It affords participating military units and personnel the opportunity to use their capabilities and skills to help communities and individuals with humanitarian needs while enhancing their ability to deploy abroad in support of military operations.

N.D. Documentary Takes DoD-Level Honor

A N.D. National Guard documentary recently made state history by earning honors in a Department of Defense competition. The video, titled "Guarded

Waters," documented 2009 flood operations. It was named second best in the documentary category among all of the entries throughout the Department of Defense, which includes all military branches and civilian defense enterprises. Video production recognition at this level has never before happened in the N.D. National Guard.

The broadcast production contest had only four categories. The Defense Information School at Fort Meade, Md., manages the contest, which takes place every other year. This year, only one National Guard entry rose to the top — that of North Dakota. The video production combined the efforts of visual information and multimedia specialists in both North Dakota's Army National Guard and Air National Guard. Scott Hennen, local radio host, provided the voice-over.

View the award-winning "Guarded Waters" online at www.119wg.ang.af.mil.

Employment Opportunities Available to Guardsmen

A variety of full-time positions are available within the N.D. National Guard. To find out more about Active Guard Reserve, State and Federal Technician job openings, visit our Web site at www.ndguard.ngb.army.mil/joblisting.

Chaplain's Corner

Life's Lessons on the Path to Success By 1st Lt. Brock Sailer, Kosovo Force (KFOR) 12

Many of us measure our success by our achievements. We point to the awards we have received and the tasks we have accomplished to feel like a winner. These past and present accomplishments gain us the respect of our peers and superiors, we hope. And when we experience failure and are set back in our professional and personal lives, it can affect how we view ourselves. Consider the path of President Abraham Lincoln, known around the world as a great historic leader and regarded by many to be the finest president of our country.

Lincoln's Road to the White House:

- Failed in Business, 1831
- Defeated for Legislature, 1832
- Second failure in business in 1833
- Suffered a nervous breakdown in 1836
- Defeated for speaker in 1838
- Defeated for elector in 1840
- Defeated for Congress in 1843
- Defeated for Senate in 1855
- Defeated for vice president in 1856
- Defeated for Senate in 1858
- Elected president in 1860

- Taken from "Wise Words and Quotes" by Vern McLellan

Reading this list makes one think twice about setbacks in life. What a strong will this amazing man must have had to get back up after what appeared to be some crushing defeats. I cannot help but think that God strategically placed President Lincoln in a specific place in history, and that his life went the way it did for a reason. I believe this because the United States would need a leader who is able to go through turmoil and keep moving. The torn country of the Civil War would need a leader who could suffer some defeats, yet



Chaplain (1st Lt.) Brock Sailer, of Cando, N.D., Chaplain Assistant Sgt. Christopher Coombs, of Moorhead, Minn., and Sgt. Kenneth Thomas, of Fargo, N.D., (photographer) were guests at the home of a local Kosovo family for a Slava (Serbian-Orthodox celebration) in honor of their designated family saint, St. Nicholas.

not be defeated.

As a chaplain, I have the opportunity to speak to leaders at many different levels, from the sergeant who is a team leader for just a few Soldiers to the battalion commander who is in charge of hundreds of Soldiers. It tends to be that I spend more time with these leaders when they have had a setback or are working through a difficult situation. One of the things I always try to express to them is that these circumstances that might feel like a failure are really where the true character development needed for leadership takes place. In the end, you learn

far more from the difficult situations you work through than what is achieved easily. It is having a resolve like President Lincoln that gets one moving in a positive direction again and again.

Do you ever wonder why you find yourself in difficult situations? I know I do. Perhaps it is because, like President Lincoln, God is molding you into the distinct person you need to be for what lies ahead. Remember, President Lincoln had developed a winning mindset during the difficult years, long before the rest of the world would see him as successful.



Sgt. Michael Smith, of Valley City, smiles at his daughters August, left, and Hadleigh May 14 at Hector International Airport, Fargo, N.D., upon his return from a peacekeeping deployment to Kosovo.

Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Please Take Our Web Site Survey

The North Dakota National Guard would like your feedback on their new Web site. Your answers will tell our staff how well the site serves you and how we can improve.

- The survey takes about five minutes to complete and all responses are confidential.
- To access the survey, go to: www.ndguard.ngb.army.mil/surveys.
- Completed surveys will be collected until July 1, 2010.
- Thank you for all your responses and for helping us improve our new Web site.





Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Airman 1st Class Ryan Graham, of the 791st Missile Security Forces Squadron, left, takes a hard punch from Modern Army Combatives (MAC) instructor Sgt. Zach Follman, of the N.D. Army National Guard's Pre-mobilization Training Assistance Element, May 13, at Minot Air Force Base, Minot, N.D. Graham is attempting to "achieve the clinch" on Follman — one of the drills taught during the level-one course. The aim of the lesson is to desensitize MAC participants to the sensation of being hit by an aggressor and to learn how to close the distance in a standup fight. Active-duty Airmen from the 91st Security Forces Group at Minot Air Force Base and N.D. Air Guardsmen from the 219th Security Forces Squadron attended the MAC training instructed by members of the N.D. Army National Guard.